

Fire Board, serving as Chairman in 2010 through 2011.

Jay joined the council with a willingness to learn everything, a determination to probe staff reports and to deliver for the residents of Hillsborough. I have heard how Jay saved the town \$1 million on a computer system purchase by challenging the cost.

Jay became the city's expert on water issues when he was appointed to a local agency charged with serving the interests of Peninsula cities receiving water from San Francisco's Hetch Hetchy system. Hillsborough owns its own water system but is reliant on the Hetch Hetchy system for water. There have been a few droughts and numerous public policy challenges, including an expensive capital improvement program, during Jay's tenure. He is described as having a "passion" for water. He is quick to point out opportunities to operate better and always well prepared for the agency's meetings.

Twice per year, Hillsborough's civic leadership gathers to compare notes and to coordinate. Present are leaders from public and private schools, the town, nonprofits and civic organizations of various types, and interested citizens. The convocation is known as the Hillsborough Community Roundtable and its purpose is to let everyone know about the plans for civic events and government services for the next six months. Jay Benton has presided over this semi-annual meeting and won accolades from all involved because he is both a good listener and, not surprisingly, a good leader.

Jay Benton is the devoted husband of Ann and they have been married since October 7, 1967. They have five children: Bill (Susan), Tom (Jane), Jim (Mari), Jenny, and Andy (Morgan). Jay also has ten grandchildren. On December 13, 2020, the day before he steps down from the city council, Jay will turn 80 years old, yet another example of age not being a liability in public life.

Madam Speaker, Jay Benton will leave with the city's finances strong, its capital stock well maintained, its spirits high despite the challenge of the current pandemic, and the future of the community well charted for many years to come. In Jay, the town has a leader who stood the test of time. His neighbors, friends and constituents wish Jay, in the hopeful language of naval adventurers, fair winds and following seas. It has been my privilege to serve with Jay Benton, a great local leader.

#### HONORING TRENT YACONELLI

#### HON. MIKE THOMPSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, December 14, 2020*

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Madam Speaker, I rise to honor and recognize Trent Yaconelli, the Executive Director of St. Helena and Calistoga Boys & Girls Club.

Trent Yaconelli was born in La Mesa, California, and grew up in Yreka, California. In 1993, he graduated from Sonoma State University with a Bachelor of Arts in Teacher Education. He has also received a Non-Profit Management Certification from The University of Texas at Austin in 2012. Mr. Yaconelli has used his education to aid his community through times of hardship, serving as the Ex-

ecutive Director of the Boys & Girls Club since 2017. Before serving as Executive Director, Mr. Yaconelli had served on the Club's staff for more than 20 years and as Associate Executive Director for four and half years.

Drawing on his years of community service, Mr. Yaconelli has shown an immense capacity to exercise moral leadership and empathy through natural disasters and on-going adversity. He worked with the Club staff to deliver more than 25,000 meals to the community, day-to-day, during the devastating Glass Fire. Recognizing that many of the people who were affected by the fire had lost their homes and were ineligible to receive disaster relief funds, Mr. Yaconelli worked with the Club to distribute more than \$70,000 in direct gifts to fifteen club families. Particularly, he helped distribute three cars to families that lost their vehicles in the fire, along with an additional \$15,000 in individual grants to help them get back on their feet.

Trent Yaconelli's tireless work over these past fourteen years should not go unnoticed. The support that he has given to the families and children of Calistoga and St. Helena has undoubtedly improved the livelihood of his community. In this spirit, Mr. Yaconelli is currently serving the students of the St. Helena Unified School District while they are participating in distance learning. His encompassing knowledge of his community continues to serve the youth and the families that need him the most.

Madam Speaker, Trent Yaconelli exemplifies strong integrity and leadership through his dedication to public service. It is therefore fitting and proper that we honor him here today.

#### COMMEMORATING THE LIFE OF TONY LEE

#### HON. PRAMILA JAYAPAL

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, December 14, 2020*

Ms. JAYAPAL. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the memory of longtime Seattle resident Tony Lee, who died on November 12, 2020. Over his more than 30-year career, Tony had a deep and personal impact on our community. He leaves behind a tremendous legacy of dedicated public service.

Tony Lee was a kind-hearted friend, activist and advocate, and a devoted family member. He was humble and wise. Those of us lucky enough to have known him will forever remember his booming, infectious laugh.

Tony joined the Seattle community at a young age, when he immigrated to the United States from China via Brazil with his family. He went on to graduate from Harvard and earn a law degree from the University of Washington. Upon starting his career as a lawyer, Tony quickly found his true calling: civil rights advocacy.

Tony began his career as an attorney for Evergreen Legal Services, representing the needs of indigent clients as well as immigrants and refugees. He later served as the Advocacy Director for Solid Ground, where he led the anti-poverty, anti-racist organization's work to save cash assistance programs for people with disabilities and mental illness, expand Medicaid to cover dental care, and overcome housing discrimination in Washington State

over 21 years. He is widely recognized for his leadership in creating and maintaining critical safety net services for immigrant and refugee communities, making Washington State a shining example for immigrant inclusion nationwide.

Tony's advocacy and activism stretched well beyond his formal work positions, putting him frequently at the forefront of important efforts and movements. Among these, Tony fought for rent control, on peace and social justice issues and for economic justice. He helped found the Statewide Poverty Action Network and create the Food Assistance Program, which promotes expanding public benefits and broadening the safety net for low-income people in Washington State. He served as a leader with the Equity in Education Commission, the King County Chapter of the Asian Pacific Islander Coalition, Seattle Human Services Coalition, Church Council of Greater Seattle, the Washington Association of Churches, and the Catholic Archdiocese.

Even after his semi-retirement in 2014, Tony could still be found advocating in the halls of the Washington State Legislature, where he was, in the words of Representative Frank Chopp, the "conscience of Washington State."

I had the pleasure of working with Tony over the more than decade I spent organizing for immigrant rights, doing lobby days in the state capitol, advocating for poor people and the most vulnerable and fighting for immigrants and refugees, and there was simply no one who knew the subject matter better or was more devoted than Tony Lee.

Tony will be dearly missed, and his tremendous legacy promoting a more just and kind Seattle will continue to grow through the communities and lives he touched. He is survived by his wife, Angela Bartels; former wife, Sharon Lee; his son, Chris; siblings Bernadette, Cecilia, Joe, Marie, and Mary; and many nieces and nephews.

For his years of dedicated and compassionate service. I am proud to express my deep appreciation for Tony Lee and his advocacy for the most vulnerable members of our community. My heart is with his loved ones during this difficult time. May he rest in power.

#### IN RECOGNITION OF JOE SCHUMACHER'S 20 YEARS OF DEDICATED PUBLIC SERVICE TO VIRGINIA'S FIRST CONGRES- SIONAL DISTRICT

#### HON. ROBERT J. WITTMAN

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, December 14, 2020*

Mr. WITTMAN. Madam Speaker, I rise today in recognition of Joe Schumacher in honor of his 20 years of dedicated public service to Virginia's First Congressional District. Joe began his service to Virginia's First District with my predecessor, Congresswoman Jo Ann Davis, and has been with my office for the entirety of my time in Congress as well. I would like to take this time to recognize Joe's milestone of 20 years with Virginia's First District.

Joe is a native Virginian, an Air Force veteran, and a graduate of the University of Virginia. During his time as my District Director, Joe has exemplified the meaning of a "Servant Leader". From overseeing the district staff

to working with constituents, Joe is always thinking about how to make things better and what more we can do to make it happen. He consistently goes above and beyond to serve constituents and support his fellow staff. His work as the Academy Coordinator has impacted countless young applicants as they begin their careers in service to this nation. Joe's leadership is a shining example of what other District Directors should strive to be.

Therefore, Madam Speaker, I ask that you rise with me to recognize Joe Schumacher for his selfless dedication to Virginia's First District. Joe is a crucial member of our team, and I am forever grateful for his service to our office and to Virginia's First District.

IN HONOR OF MARK OLBERT

**HON. JACKIE SPEIER**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, December 14, 2020*

Ms. SPEIER. Madam Speaker, I rise to recognize the outstanding service of Mark Olbert as he departs the San Carlos City Council after nine years as a councilmember, two of them as Mayor. Mark also served 10 years on the local school board. For a man who moved to San Carlos in 1997, he's spent a remarkable 19 of those 23 years in local elected office.

Mark was raised in Dobbs Ferry, New York and obtained his bachelors in cell and molecular biology from the State University of New York at Buffalo, and his MBA from the Amos Tuck School at Dartmouth College. He went to work as a finance executive in the oil and gas industry and then transitioned to the world of biotechnology. After great success at Amgen, Mark moved to San Carlos to grab other brass rings in the world of biotechnology. Ultimately, he was able to retire early to dedicate his life to his family and to public service.

When he and his wife, Barbara McHugh, sought a Bay Area community in which to raise their family they selected San Carlos because of its high-quality schools. Both Mark and Barbara plunged into volunteering to raise money for the schools and were ultimately honored for their leadership by the San Carlos Education Foundation.

In the midst of his career, and while raising Arthur and Caroline, the couple's two children, Mark ran for the school board. He succeeded in his first effort and was reelected. During his 10 years as a trustee, he successfully advocated to reform the district's special education program and grappled with the fragile finances of the district. For decades, civic leaders had opined that, in San Carlos, school parcel taxes and bond measures would fail. As a trustee, Mark had a different opinion. He and a core group led successful efforts to pass several tax or bond measures, thereby stabilizing finances and putting the district on a path to rejuvenate its schools.

While on the school board, it was his work with the city that sparked his interest in the city council. He saw a need for more parks for a growing population, more housing, and greater transparency in local government. He ran for the city council in 2011, came in first, and was later re-elected.

Mark and most of his council colleagues tried but were ultimately unable to obtain more

land to expand city parks. He always maintained, however, that the city council had done its job by providing residents with a choice about their quality of life.

In recent years, he successfully advocated for San Carlos to become a "welcoming city" to send a message of hope as immigrants came under attack. Homeowners have a friend in Mark as the city adopted a proposal to help pay for otherwise expensive sidewalk repairs. Along with his colleagues, he regularly supported thoughtful budgeting that generated surpluses.

Housing is Mark's constant concern. He asks important questions about whether the city has zoned enough land for housing in order to avoid the displacement of vulnerable residents as commercial development accelerates. He is passionate about equal economic opportunity and the need to find affordable housing for teachers, public safety personnel, store clerks, and all others who struggle to pay high rents in San Carlos.

Mark started a blog when he joined the school board and continued as a councilmember. Recent council topics on his site, "Making Your Mark," include: "Reflections: Paranoia, Tribalism, Politics"; and, "Even in the City of Good Living, Racism is Not Patriotism!" His retirement may spare the public from another blog rumored to be in the works: "Quantum Theory and Time Travel: New Adventures in Parenting During A Pandemic." His blog's style is a blend of The New York Times Magazine, Scientific American, and Mad Magazine.

Mark Olbert is honest, thoughtful, and dogged in asking questions and getting answers. He seeks the long-term welfare of the entire community. He is brilliant and has a wonderful sense of humor. While "public servant" is a title that others may view as pedestrian, he treasures it as much as a rare gem. It has been my great honor and privilege to serve with Mark Olbert. He represents the best in public service. I will miss him on the council. Let me invoke an amended phrase from a renowned science fiction philosopher, Yoda: Mark, May the Force of Public Opinion Always Be With You.

#### PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. GARY J. PALMER**

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, December 14, 2020*

Mr. PALMER. Madam Speaker, I was absent from the House and missed votes on 12/20 through 12/4/20 while recovering from COVID-19. Had I been present, I would have voted NAY on Roll Call No. 228; NAY on Roll Call No. 230; NAY on Roll Call No. 231; NAY on Roll Call No. 232; NAY on Roll Call No. 233; YEA on Roll Call No. 234; and NAY on Roll Call No. 235.

INTRODUCTION OF THE PITTMAN-ROBERTSON WILDLIFE RESTORATION ACT AND DINGELL-JOHNSON SPORT FISH RESTORATION ACT DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA EQUALITY ACT

**HON. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON**

OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, December 14, 2020*

Ms. NORTON. Madam Speaker, today, I rise to introduce the Pittman-Robertson Wildlife Restoration Act and Dingell-Johnson Sport Fish Restoration Act District of Columbia Equality Act, which would amend the Pittman-Robertson Wildlife Restoration Act and the Dingell-Johnson Sport Fish Restoration Act to make the District of Columbia eligible for the same federal funding as states under these Acts. The District is treated as a state under federal programs, with a few exceptions, most of them simply oversights or failures to update post-home rule.

The Pittman-Robertson Wildlife Restoration Act provides funding, derived from excise taxes on sporting equipment, for five distinct purposes: program administration, wildlife restoration, basic hunter education and safety, enhanced hunter education and safety grants and multistate conservation grants. The District does not receive any funding under this Act. The Dingell-Johnson Sport Fish Restoration Act provides funding for sport fish restoration, aquatic education, wetlands restoration and boat-related activities. Under this Act, states receive a minimum of one percent of the total amount apportioned, while the District is capped at one-third of one percent.

This omission and lack of parity under these Acts have serious consequences for the District. The District has roughly 7,800 acres of parkland covering nearly a quarter of the city, which means it has more parkland per capita than any other city in the United States. This bill would define "State" in these Acts to include the District, providing the District with equitable access to valuable financial resources for wildlife conservation in our nation's capital.

I urge my colleagues to support this important bill.

ARIZONA VOICE FOR CRIME  
VICTIMS (AVCV)

**HON. DEBBIE LESKO**

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, December 14, 2020*

Mrs. LESKO. Madam Speaker, Arizona, a national leader in crime victims' rights, reached a milestone on November 26, 2020—30 years since the enactment of the Victims' Bill of Rights (VBR), as art. II §2.1, of the state constitution. The passage of the VBR was an immense achievement in the face of strong opposition. The movement was led by numerous crime victims, grassroots organizations, and prosecutors throughout the state. Prior to this achievement, there had been two unsuccessful attempts to get a victims' rights amendment referred by the Arizona Legislature. Strong opposition came from defense attorneys and, astonishingly, judicial officers.